

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843



February 2, 2015

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ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Romy M. Cachola, Chair
and Members
Committee on Veterans, Military, International
Affairs and Culture and the Arts
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 312
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Dear Chair and Members:

Subject: House Bill 645 - Environmental Response Revolving Fund Appropriation
to Address Leaking Tanks at the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility

We strongly support the intent of House Bill 645 to address leaks at the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility (Facility) and request the bill also appropriate resources to the State Department of Health's underground storage tank regulatory program. Given the size of the Facility, combined with the number of existing leaking underground storage tanks statewide, additional resources for regulatory oversight of leaking tanks is warranted to insure our drinking water supplies and environment are protected.

The Board of Water Supply has serious concerns about the numerous past fuel releases from the Facility and its impact on an irreplaceable groundwater aquifer that we all depend on for our potable water supply. Studies indicate past fuel releases have already contaminated the groundwater and soil underneath the Facility with petroleum hydrocarbons, including the risks of large releases of fuel to the ground aquifer, the environment and the community we serve. Mitigating the situation now is prevention that will cost significantly less than the cost to clean up large scale contamination to the aquifer and environment after it occurs.

We support every effort to address the situation at the Facility today to save our most precious resource – the groundwater aquifer – now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y.W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer